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# Wildlife

in the

CONSERVATION RESERVE

HABITAT



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CATALOGING PREP.

WETLANDS



PONDS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## COVER

Lack of natural habitat—cover and food—has made survival difficult for game birds and animals in many areas.

For the first time, through the *Conservation Reserve*, farmers now can get Federal financial assistance for shifting land from crop production to protective cover for wildlife. They have the choice of 5- or 10-year contracts for planting trees or shrubs on *Conservation Reserve* acreage.

Cost-share payments for such plantings cover land preparation, planting, mulching, and, in some cases, cost of necessary soil building elements.

## FOOD

Included as wildlife habitat under the *Conservation Reserve* are food plot plantings to attract, hold, and, particularly, to winter-protect pheasants, quail, rabbits and other birds and animals.

Located adjacent to protective cover or water, these food plots may include domestic grains as well as natural foods.

Where desired, cost-share payments for planting these food plots may be spread out—received annually over the period the *Conservation Reserve* contract is in effect.



N-23444

Cover such as this on *Conservation Reserve* land in Minnesota helps protect and increase wildlife.



N-23323

This food plot on *Conservation Reserve* acreage, adjacent to permanent cover, contains cattail millet, lespedeza, and cow peas.



## WETLANDS

Water habitat for wildlife—fur animals and waterfowl as well as other game—may be provided under the *Conservation Reserve*.

In addition to the restoration of former marsh lands by plugging drains, ditches may be dug or a series of shallow ponds may be provided on "reserve" acreage.

Cost-share payments for these facilities depend upon the amount of work done and the number of acres put in the *Conservation Reserve*.



BN-5462

*Conservation Reserve* land may be put in wetland wildlife habitat such as this.

## PONDS

Ponds for fishing or other recreational purposes may be constructed on *Conservation Reserve* acreage.

While these ponds may not be used for commercial fish production or other commercial enterprises, farmers may charge nominal fees for their use for fishing or recreation.

Cost-share payments are available for excavations, dams, or dikes for fish ponds. Annual rental payments are made under 5- or 10-year contracts at the choice of the farmers.



BN-5463

Farm fishponds similar to this can be constructed on *Conservation Reserve* acreage.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

## Farmers, Landowners—

Through the *Conservation Reserve* of the Soil Bank you can get Federal financial aid in making needed land-use changes on your farms, as part of an overall adjustment program. Conservation measures providing habitat and protection for wildlife qualify under this program.

For undertaking such projects, the United States Department of Agriculture will pay you (1) up to 80 percent of the cost of putting cropland into wildlife habitat and (2) an annual per-acre rental each year you have land under contract in the program.

You may hunt and fish on your wildlife *Conservation Reserve* and you may permit others to do so—free, for fees, or for helping you develop and maintain the “reserve”—as long as it is not a commercial operation. You also may accept assistance—financial or otherwise—from any non-Federal sources in connection with either cost of such projects or as additional annual payments.

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See your county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office for details.

## Conservationists, Sportsmen—

Through the *Conservation Reserve* you have unequalled opportunities to cooperate with your farmer colleagues in increasing and protecting our wildlife resources.

This can be accomplished in several ways—through services or financial aid (in addition to Federal payments) to encourage farmers to put land in wildlife habitat, or through similar help to maintain the “reserve” over the period it is in the program. You can help through explaining benefits of the program to farmers you know.

In return for such cooperation farmers may give hunting and fishing rights, hold the “reserve” land as a refuge, or join you or your group in other measures to promote and protect wildlife.

Details of the wildlife projects of the *Conservation Reserve* are available in county ASC offices.